

5 **CLAIMS**

The claims are as follows:

1. An element for use in stationary material distribution apparatus comprising:

an article of manufacture having a flat generally rectangular central portion having first
10 and second sets of ears affixed to opposite sides of said central portion, said sets of ears
including first and second ears bent respectively in upward and downward directions
relative to the plane of said central portion, each set of ears located diagonally opposite
one another across said central portion being bent in the same direction relative to the
plane of said central portion, a third set of ears extending from said central portion and
15 terminating at a substantially rectangular member whose plane of orientation is
substantially perpendicular to said central portion and a retaining ring affixed to said
substantially rectangular member.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said retaining ring is characterized as
having a planar body portion substantially perpendicular to said substantially rectangular
20 member and having a radially extending opening sized to capture and retain said
substantially rectangular member.

3. The combination of claim 2 further comprising a conduit in which said
article is fitted.

4. The combination of claim 3 wherein said conduit is provided with an
25 upstream end and a downstream end, said retaining ring being positioned proximate said
downstream end.

5. The combination of claim 4 wherein said conduit is provided with a flange
for connecting said conduit to an adjacent conduit, said retaining ring being sized to abut
said flange and to limit extension of said article of manufacture into said conduit.

30 6. The combination of claim 3 wherein said generally rectangular central
portion is rotated approximately 30 degrees from horizontal within said conduit.

7. The combination of claim 5 wherein said conduit is characterized as
having an inner diameter that is substantially equal to said radially extending opening of
said retaining ring.

5 8. The combination of claim 4 wherein said article of manufacture is removable from said conduit.

 9. The combination of claim 4 wherein said conduit is provided with a second article of manufacture positioned within said conduit upstream of said article of manufacture, said second article of manufacture comprising a flat generally rectangular
10 central position having first and second sets of ears affixed to opposite sides of said central portion, said sets of ears including first and second ears bent respectively in upward and downward directions relative to the plane of said central portion, each pair of ears located diagonally opposite one another across said central portion being bent in the same direction relative to the plane of said central portion, a third set of ears extending
15 from said central portion and terminating at a substantially rectangular member whose plane of orientation is substantially perpendicular to said central portion.